



# Papyrus

No 69, Autumn 2019

## NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF BURNLEY GARDENS

### In this issue:

Presidents report	1
Membership report	3
Autumn in the Gardens	4
Vale Clive Sorrell	5
New Guinea, our nearest neighbour	6
The Burnley Guides	8
From The Archives	9
Why the Cherry season is Japan is so short	10
Botanical illustration	11
Pruning Roses	12
Vale Leigh Stone	13
Membership fees	14
Mystery Masked Man	15
Neem Oil	15

### President's Report



Welcome to our first edition of Papyrus for 2019. It's been a busy few months since our last edition.

Following our AGM in September last year, Teena Crawford gave a fascinating illustrated talk on '**Plants are the Solution in a Garden**'. Teena is a well-known and much respected plantswoman, and her horticultural knowledge is wide-ranging. Gardeners face constant challenges when

selecting plants which will perform well in varied and challenging situations in a garden - dry shade is but one of the challenges. Teena presented us with some wonderful new food for thought.

In October 2018 our guest speaker, Jane Edmanson, drew a predictably large and appreciative audience. Jane spoke on the topic '**My Life with Plants**', and what a life she has had with plants! Jane's gracious generosity with her time, and her great capacity to pick up on any plant- or garden-related topic, and to run with it, make her an immensely likeable and interesting speaker.

In November I gave an illustrated talk about **Landscape Design Trends in Germany**, culminating in the meticulous and trailblazing work of Cassian Schmidt at the superb Hermannshof Botanical Garden north of Heidelberg.

Chris England's annual summer Pruning Workshop in December was, as always, very well subscribed. We are hugely appreciative of Chris's willingness to conduct these workshops twice a year - no-one could be better qualified to do so!

This year got off to a great start: David Daly from the highly respected **Conifer Gardens Nursery**, joined us for our annual Valentine's Day Dinner & Talk. The idyllic venue for the dinner was under the gorgeous new Wisteria Arbour in the Sunken Garden. All FOBG members should take pride in knowing that projects such as this, and the nearby Sugar Gum Table would never be achievable without the combined efforts of so many members.





Chris England,  
pruning instructor

### For your diary

Saturday 3  
August, 10-1pm  
**Winter Pruning  
Workshop**  
With Chris  
England from  
*Merrywood Plants*

Two big notes of thanks are appropriate: firstly to Dianne Cranston and her assistant Cheryl Andrews, for the delicious meal which they served. Secondly, a big thank you to our Gardens Director Andrew Smith, for his vision and perseverance in enabling this dream to become a reality. David Daly gave a very informative, well illustrated talk entitled '**Growing Cool Climate plants in a Changing Environment**'.

In March we were honoured to host our past President Michele Adler, along with Rod McMillan. Rod and Michele are well known for leading 'off the beaten track' excursions. Their illustrated talk on the Highlands and Islands of PNG excited much discussion, and no doubt, interest in travelling to our nearest neighbour. See page 6 for the full story.

As well as these talks, FOBG has recently conducted several workshops: **Propagating Native Plants** and **Plant Photography**. Both these workshops were enthusiastically received and we sincerely thank Dr. Paul Kertes for sharing his expertise and Fran and Glenys for initiating the plant workshop. If you missed either of these, do look out for them in future!

As always, there have been regular **Plant Sales**, run by our very committed Propagation Group. These sales raise really significant amounts of money which all goes towards the gardens. To all members of the Propagation Group: a very big THANK YOU!

To the **Guides** - thank you for your ongoing contribution to the work of FOBG, and to our **Botanical Art Group**, thank you too! There really is so much on offer at FOBG!



David Daly of Conifer  
Gardens

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all members of our wonderful Committee. The response at last year's AGM to our call for more people to step up to the Committee was amazingly heartening! For the first time in quite a number of years we have a full committee. This has meant that the load of work - and there is quite a lot of that! - can be spread more effectively. I would particularly like to acknowledge our relatively new Committee member Kirsten Smith. Kirsten has undertaken to succeed our tireless Treasurer Jane, and her diligence and enthusiasm are proving a great asset to the FOBG.

As ever I acknowledge our Gardens Director Andrew Smith - his absolute and unshakeable dedication to the wellbeing of our gardens is central to our own efforts.

Finally I wish to offer my sincere thanks to Jacquie and to the whole Committee for their support to me personally and for sharing the FOBG load since the sudden and tragic death of my husband Warwick at Christmas.

We all go from strength to strength!

Sandra McMahon  
President, FOBG.

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## **Membership report** by Cheryl Andrews, Membership coordinator

Since the No. 68 Spring Newsletter, our membership has stabilised at 220 members. We have 24 new members, and I would like to extend a warm welcome to them all. I thank all our members for their continuing support and commitment to the Friends activities.

### **MEMBERSHIP FEE INCREASES**

At the end of 2018 the committee held a series of strategic planning meetings reviewing our association and its mission, as well as prices for our various events. Membership fees were also reviewed as they have not been increased for about 10 years. It is important that we continue to raise good revenue for the gardens, as this is one of our main purposes.

Also the cost of talks has increased, although it still remains very low (especially when comparing with other organisations providing similar events). These costs have not been increased for some years. Another factor is that our catering costs have increased significantly. We all agreed that \$10 would be a fair price, and it still remains below similar events elsewhere.

**See table on page 14** for the increased membership fees which will be effective from 1 July 2019, when membership fees are next due for renewal.



***Who is this  
mysterious masked  
character? Find out  
on p. 14***

## Autumn in the Gardens by Andrew Smith



The preceding summer period has been quite a challenge for the Gardens. Despite Melbourne (unlike other regional areas of Victoria) only experiencing a few days of extreme, over-45 degree heat, the lack of rainfall has been very evident. Of course, as usual, most of the

Gardens are totally reliant on irrigation to survive, however this year trees or areas not irrigated have suffered badly. The deciduous *Taxodium distichum* is a prime example of the impact of low rainfall totals.



*Malus ioensis* 'Plena' in early autumn colour (golden tree to the rear).

While we shouldn't be surprised that a species that grows in swamps should suffer from water deficit, it is remarkably tolerant of dry conditions and our specimen on the Pond Lawn has always coped with the summer period. Not so this year, when in early March the leaves changed to a rusty red colour usually associated with its late April Autumn deciduous state.

This tree isn't alone in its early onset of Autumn colour, with the *Malus ioensis* 'Plena' also colouring up early despite it being in an irrigated bed. Irrigation is a reliable plant survival strategy but no substitute for rainfall, especially in beds with dense shrub mass and an overhead tree canopy.

The new planting scheme in the Sunken Garden I mentioned last newsletter has flourished (apart from the loss of *Daphne* 'Eternal Fragrance') over the summer period, a pleasant reward for all the hard work that went into preparing the soil prior to planting. Of particular merit is the *Geranium* 'Rozanne', that has provided a wonderful violet-blue floral display all summer long, and shows no sign of stopping now that Autumn is here.



*Geranium* 'Rozanne' in the Sunken Garden

The random-paving thyme-lawn area adjoining the Wisteria arbour has filled out nicely since being planted last spring and the new Wisteria specimens have bolted away over the summer to now reach each side. We had to be rather ruthless with its formative pruning during the summer, with two pruning visits taking half the growth off each time, to ensure the frame work is set up for the future.

It was very rewarding to see the Wisteria Walk used for its intended purpose early last December and again in March as a space for outdoor dining. The December dinner was a Campus celebration for my 30 years of service to the Gardens, with current and former staff and family being part of the inaugural dinner occasion. Also attending was Graham Kenneday and his wife Maureen, from *Gardens of Steel*, who constructed and installed the Wisteria arbour.



## Vale Clive Sorrell

The recent passing of former student and staff member Clive Sorrell (Arboriculture lecturer 1990-2007) has been commemorated by the planting of a grafted *Corymbia citriodora* (propagated by David Beardsell) in Citriodora Court, on the south side of the Student building. This specimen has been propagated from a beautiful pink trunked specimen in Bulleen Road Balwyn.

Clive is fondly remembered by former staff and students as an innovative educator with a fine wit and enchanting smile.

P.S. See page 11 for an example of Clive's writing.

Planting Clive's tree in Citriodora Court.



## New Guinea - Our Nearest Neighbour by Christine Morrissey



Former FOBG President Michele Adler

***One of the highlights of the trip was the visit to the Mt Hagen Cultural Festival.***



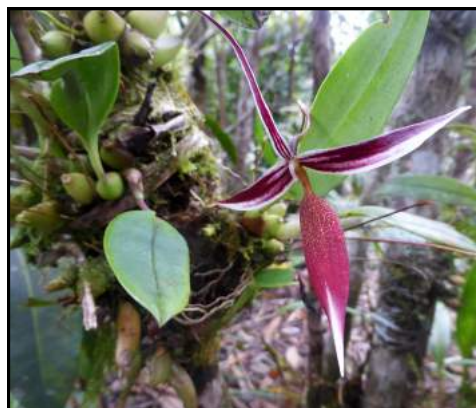
On Tuesday, 26 March, Michele Adler and Rod McMillan gave a very interesting and educational talk on New Guinea, a country about which we know little, despite it being our nearest neighbour. Michele and Rod went on a trip with 14 other adventurous travellers and 2 leaders to visit New Guinea, New Britain and Bougainville.

Rod orientated us with maps of the area and places visited. Michele showed pictures of the most amazing, diversely shaped orchids in the mountains of Mt Hagen.

They were mostly epiphytic, either Dendrobiums or Bulbophyllums. They usually grow high in the tree canopy, but where they visited, the nursery man had collected them from fallen trees, and replanted them on vegetation at eye level.



Mt. Hagen area at sunrise



Clock-wise from above, orchids in the Mt Hagen area, Mud Men at the Mt Hagen festival



One of the highlights of the trip was the visit to the Mt Hagen Cultural Festival. Tribes from all over the country dress up in brilliant outfits and have dance competitions instead of fighting each other. There were mud men, skeleton men, mixed groups in wonderfully colourful feathers and foliage - a great spectacle.



village boys  
(left); spirit  
house and  
dancers (right)



The group stayed on an island off Wewak, where they planted yams, saw the remains of large Japanese guns and wrecked planes, and spent a lot of time with the local families. Another highlight was a trip along the Sepik River in a cut-out (motorised) canoe to visit villages, spirit houses and farms with very friendly villagers.



One of the colourful costumes at  
Mt. Hagen festival

The visit to Rabaul on New Britain was a stark reminder of how active the volcanoes in the area can be. One volcano erupted in 1994, covering the area with ash many feet deep and still there today. Some of the group even climbed one of the active volcanoes Mt Tavurvur. There was a lot of evidence of Japanese occupation during WW2, including networks of tunnels and large barges still housed there.

In Bougainville, part of the Solomon Islands, the group stayed on Pokpok Island with the family of the Speaker of the Bougainville House of Representatives. They enjoyed visiting the local school and being entertained by the children singing their independence song, and visiting the deserted Panguna Mine and its derelict buildings. Then it was back to Pt Moresby, a trip to the start of the Kokoda Track and home - a fascinating trip despite its challenges.

## The Burnley Guides by Judith Scurfield

***The Guides are seeking additional volunteers who would like to learn more about the history and importance of Burnley Gardens***



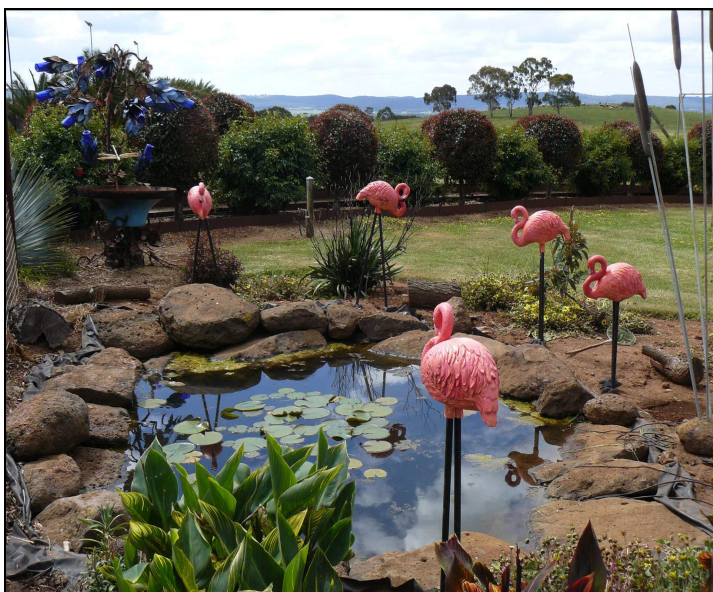
The Guides are a small group who take tours of the Gardens for interested groups such as Probus, U3A and other garden clubs. During our recent hot and dry weather, the number of tours has been down, with one, by a garden club from Pakenham, having been most unfortunately affected by bushfires, and having to defer their planned visit. However, several groups have booked to visit us in April and May, when the Gardens should be showing their beautiful Autumn colours.

We have also lost some of our Guides, who have had to take on other responsibilities. We farewelled Jean Corbett, Judy Collett and Susie Hall with a small picnic at the Sugar Gum table on 25 March. We thank them all for their contributions, especially Jean and Susie who guided for many years. Consequently, we are seeking additional volunteers who would like to learn more about the history and importance of Burnley Gardens, and then be able to pass on their knowledge to tour groups. If you are interested, or know anyone else who might be, please contact us by emailing to [friends.burnley@gmail.com](mailto:friends.burnley@gmail.com)

As part of our process of learning from other open gardens, we visited two in November 2018: the Alister Clark Memorial Rose Garden in Bulla, and "Elaeocarpus", a magnificent private garden and olive grove near Romsey. Our thanks go to Helen Curtin of Hume City Council, to Rima, owner of "Elaeocarpus", and to Robin Calabrese for arranging this tour.

NB If you think Judith looks a little worried in her pic, it's because she is deep in a discussion on plant ID.

So that's where the flamingos have gone  
(*Elaeocarpus Olive Estate*, Romsey)



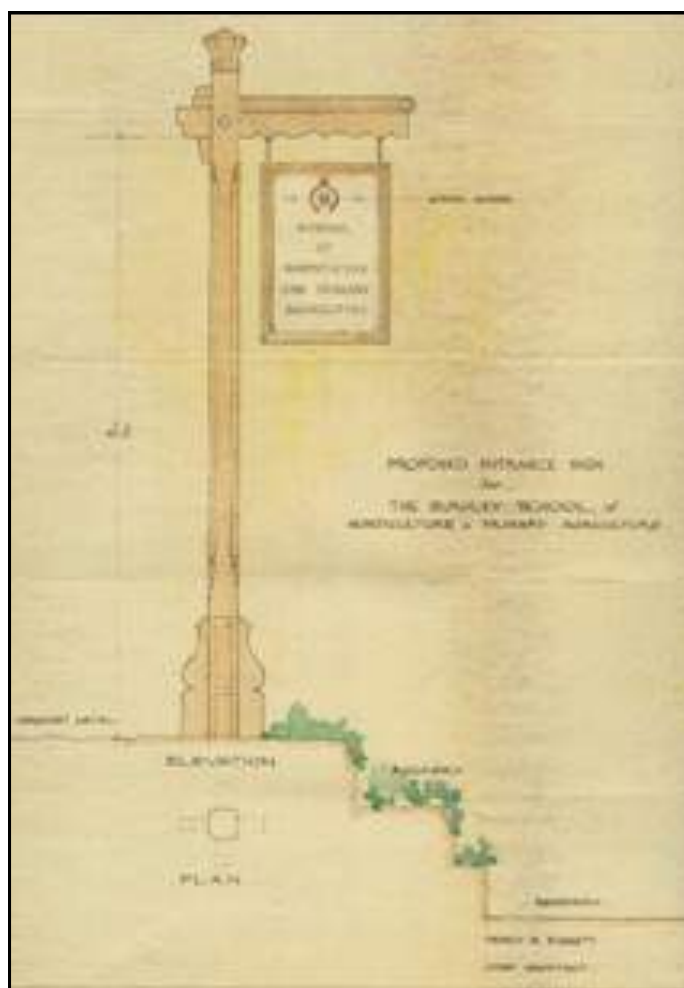
## From the Archives by Jane Wilson



I recently discovered this rather beautiful drawing by the architect of the Administration Building on the Burnley Campus. The Chief Architect for the new building to replace the Old Pavilion (see p. 16) was Percy E. Everett. This is an extract from the Australian Dictionary of Biography Vol. 14, MUP, 1996.

In 1934 Everett was appointed chief architect in the Victorian Public Works Department. There he formed a strong design division—divorced from the documentation and contract administration sections—and recruited his architects from private practice. Insisting on approving every architectural drawing, he retained absolute control over the designs produced in the department. As chief architect, he was responsible for the construction and maintenance of the State's public buildings, including courthouses, police stations, prisons, mental hospitals, sanatoriums, schools and tertiary institutions, as well as residences for government employees.

Autocratic in temperament and energetic in application, Everett made his distinctive imprint on public buildings throughout Victoria. He had completed a world tour in 1930, and, in 1945, travelled to North America to study recent trends in public architecture. Although his eclecticism embraced Art Deco, American Beaux-Arts and Modernism, his additions to existing buildings were unsympathetic to the work of earlier architects. In their siting and insistently three-dimensional character, his buildings were statements of civic importance. Among his more notable achievements in design were the Ballarat Public Offices (1941) and the Russell Street Police Headquarters (1942-43) which exemplified the stepped skyscraper form. *Continued Page 11*



## Why the Japanese Cherry Blossom season is so short

by Jane Wilson

I have travelled to Japan several times and I have noticed that some of the gardens I have visited are very proud of the variety of cherry blossom trees they contain. I had not thought much about that until I read a recent review by Claire Kohda Hazelton of a book by Naoko Abe, 'Cherry' Ingram: The Englishman Who Saved Japan's Blossoms.



*Prunus x yedoensis*

When the Tokugawa family unified Japan between 1639 and 1853 they brought two centuries of peace. The lords of all the principalities were required to reside in Edo (now Tokyo) and most of them brought wild and cultivated cherry trees from their principalities with them. Each of these varieties bloomed at a different time so there were displays of different colours for many months. They represented Japan's diverse cultures, traditions, climates and people.

Today, Tokyo's cherry trees are known for their synchronous blossoming for eight days only in April and in unison all over Japan a little later the further north you go. They are mostly just one species, *Prunus x yedoensis* Somei-Yoshino with single pink blossoms on bare branches.

A wealthy Englishman, 'Cherry' Ingram, visited Japan several times and during his last visit in 1926 he noticed that after the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923, which killed many of the cherry trees, together with pollution, they were being replaced by Somei-Yoshino. This was partly due to its hardiness and fast growth but also as a method of propaganda. The cherry blossom, once the mark of a peaceful, diverse people, became a symbol of a conforming, unified population, willing to die for the emperor.

Like the short-lived blossom of Somei-Yoshino, young Japanese men were expected to bloom and fall for the emperor during the war. Ingram collected scions and seeds of as many remaining species as he could and sent them back to his home in England to be returned to Japan after the war. In Japan, some *sakuramori* or 'cherry guardians' also struggled to maintain their collections.

The reviewer describes the book as deeply moving and a huge achievement in terms of research. Well worth looking out for.



Cherry Blossom time in Japan. Photo from the Burnley Plant Guide

## From the Archives *from p. 9*



It wasn't until 1958 that a sign was eventually placed on the building itself and in a Memorandum to the Superintendent T.H. Kneen wrote, "A great deal of useful publicity is being lost as a result of the failure of the Department to provide this simple and inexpensive identification of a most impressive public building. Numerous photographs are taken by visitors of this building which has remained anonymous."

As you can see from the photo, this was a very stark looking building when it was completed in 1949, so I was surprised to see such a decorative sign proposed by Percy Everett to be erected near the building. The Principal, T.H. Kneen had great difficulty in persuading the Superintendent of Agricultural Education to spend the money to erect a sign at all for nearly 10 years.

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## Botanical Illustration with Mali Moir

The FOBG Botanical Art Group continues to meet at Burnley Gardens, once a month, on a Wednesday morning. Mali Moir, a well respected artist, experienced teacher and graduate of Burnley, is our tutor. Mali guides each of us individually as we work at our own pace, using watercolour paints and pencils. To each session we bring our own plant material.

We are a small friendly group, and new members, whether beginners or accomplished artists, are warmly welcomed. Classes are small with a maximum of 10 people. Classes run in 4 week blocks and enrolments occur throughout the year. The next block commences on Wednesday 8 May.

If you would like further information about the FOBG Botanical Art Group at Burnley, see our website at <http://www.fobg.org.au/blog/whats-on/5790-2/> And/or or contact Jennene Arnel: [jarnel1942@gmail.com](mailto:jarnel1942@gmail.com)



## Rose Pruning / Pruning Roses / The Pruning of Roses / The Pruning of the Rose / ... by Clive Sorrell



*These instructions on the pruning of roses were written by Clive Sorrell for the Burnley Plant Guide, in his typical slightly irreverent, witty style. He was a lover of roses, and knew a great deal about them. Clive wrote:*

*"A daunting quantity of arcane tosh is disseminated about pruning roses, enough for one to conclude that it must be a difficult subject, and that each rose plant is delicate and prepared to die should a gardener approach with secateurs in hand. Rose lovers have become obsessed about pruning.*

### **When to prune**

One fundamental rule applies to all roses: prune them immediately after flowering. There are two qualifications to this:

Group 1. If the plant flowers once per year prune it immediately after its flush of flowers is over. Flowers of some plants are followed by an annual display of showy fruit (rose 'hips'), so for these do not remove spent flowers. Prune when fruit has gone.

Group 2. If roses are produced more-or-less continuously (referred to as 'repeat-flowering', 'perpetual', 'recurrent' or 'remontant') leave pruning until winter when the fewest flowers are produced. Frequent removal of spent flowers encourages production of more.

One must know to which group a rose belongs before attempting pruning. Pruning at the 'wrong' time will not kill the plant but may delay flowering or, in the case of Group 1 roses, prevent flowering.

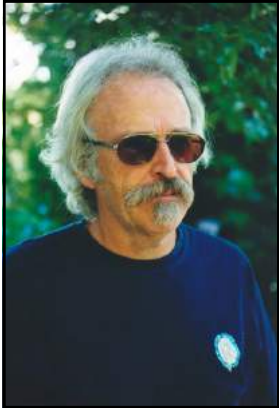
### **How to prune**

Pruning any rose consists of removing or shortening flowered stems or shoots.

For roses of Group 1, remove at the base of the plant all of the oldest and weakest stems, and remove weak shoots. Remove all dead, dying or diseased parts.

For roses of Group 2, shorten side shoots and occasionally remove at the base of the plant all of the oldest and weakest stems. Remove all dead, dying or diseased parts."

## Vale Leigh Stone by Andrew Smith



It was with a heavy heart that we learned, only a few days after the wake held for Clive Sorrell at Burnley, that Leigh Stone has also passed away.

Leigh was also an Arborist lecturer at Burnley, a later contemporary of Clive, and was well loved and appreciated by past students, not only in teaching and demonstrating arboriculture but also for teaching computer subjects.

Leigh, like so many of us, began as a student and then followed on to teach or work at Burnley. His quiet yet assuring nature and inquiring mind made several impacts on the Gardens. His project as a student involved the successful transplanting of a very large established evergreen *Fraxinus* species (Ash) from the student gardens in the field station. The hand digging and timber boxing up of the root ball, square in shape rather than the usual round ball and burlap technique that was the norm, was quite a feat. This task undertaken over several weeks was an impressive physical achievement and the successful establishment in the unirrigated area below the Swan Street terraces was only compromised by the eight- year drought of the late 2000s.

Leigh also was innovative in his approach to tree issues, the appearance of Elm Leaf Beetle in the late 1990s being a prime example. At that early stage of the outbreak, very little was known about how it could be treated. There was a pessimistic feeling that if left untreated, Elm Leaf Beetle would mean the end of all Elm trees in Melbourne. As Confidor (Imidacloprid), the chemical that at present has the beetle under control, was only just being developed, and was relatively unknown and unavailable, other treatments needed to be found, and quickly. The banding of trunks and painting of toxic chemicals on the lower trunk to kill the larvae as they began the pupating lifecycle was no help, as the skeletonization of the leaves had already happened. Leigh's solution was to aerially spray a new, low-toxic chemical called Neem Oil up into the canopy of the tree to kill the adult beetles that laid the eggs (and subsequent larvae) before they could do any real damage. This experimentation and lateral thinking, although not adopted due to the subsequent release of Confidor, was none the less a good solution to the rampant problem.

The other lasting Burnley memory I have of Leigh is the pragmatic nature of his personality. *Continued over leaf*

In the mid 2000s, the weeping form of the *Eucalyptus citriodora* (now *Corymbia citriodora*), in what is now known as Citriodora Court (behind the Student Amenity building), was deemed to be too dangerous to remain. Leigh, unlike the remainder of the Arboriculture cohort at Burnley, had no issue with using his students to remove the tree. He felt that as the tree had been condemned, there was no reason why a student learning outcome couldn't be obtained from the tree's removal. Other staff were prepared to chain themselves to the tree to stop its removal, and worse still, others severed all friendship with those that made the decision. It is still talked about as a controversial and divisive decision. I was grateful to Leigh when he was able to do a task that no other arboriculture staff member was willing to do.

It is very sad that only a few days after planting a new *Corymbia citriodora* in Citriodora court to commemorate Clive's contribution to Burnley, Leigh, the man who with his students, removed the other tree just a few metres away, passed away, and is no longer with us to watch it grow and develop.

I'll put some thought into a suitable tree to also commemorate Leigh's contribution to Burnley and the teaching legacy he has left ....perhaps an ever-green Ash in an irrigated spot to remember his herculean feat.

### **FOBG Schedule of membership fees, 1 July 2019** from p. 3

Type of membership	Duration	Current	Fees
Adult	1 year	\$25	\$35
	5 years	\$100	\$140
Family	1 year	\$40	\$50
	5 years	\$160	\$200
Student (accredited course)	1 year	\$20	\$25
Community Group	1 year	\$40	\$50
Corporation	1 year	\$100	\$150
Life (individual/non-	Forever	\$250	\$350

## Who is the mystery masked man?

### Don Giovanni @ Theatre Royal, Camperdown

Set at a sumptuous Florentine wedding, Mozart's Don Giovanni is the story of the crimes and seductions of the wealthy Don, and the havoc he wreaks on the people around him. As his crimes and machinations slowly come to light, the characters begin to plot and act out their revenge. With some of the greatest operatic tunes and most exciting ensembles, this opera tells its dark tale with generous lashings of satire and comedy.



**Date:** Wednesday 15 May 2019 at 7:30pm

**Location:** Theatre Royal

2 Bath Street, Camperdown, Victoria 3260

**Cost:** Premium seats \$100, General Admission \$50

**Bookings - [trybooking](#)**

The Camperdown Botanic Gardens and Arboretum Trust Inc. will receive part of the takings from this wonderful event. It is a great opportunity to venture into the west of Victoria, be entertained and then explore all that the western plains and coast have to offer.

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### Foot note: Neem Oil

Neem Oil is derived from the Neem Tree *Azadirachta indica*, a member of the Meliaceae, and a relative of the widely grown *Melia azedarach*. Both trees are sometimes referred to as Persian Lilac.

Neem Oil is now sold at Bunnings as "a registered organic insecticide for the control of chewing and sucking insects including caterpillars, curl grubs, grasshoppers, mealybugs, lawn armyworm, aphids, mites, citrus leafminer, fungus gnats and whitefly."

***NEWSLETTER  
OF THE  
FRIENDS OF  
BURNLEY  
GARDENS***

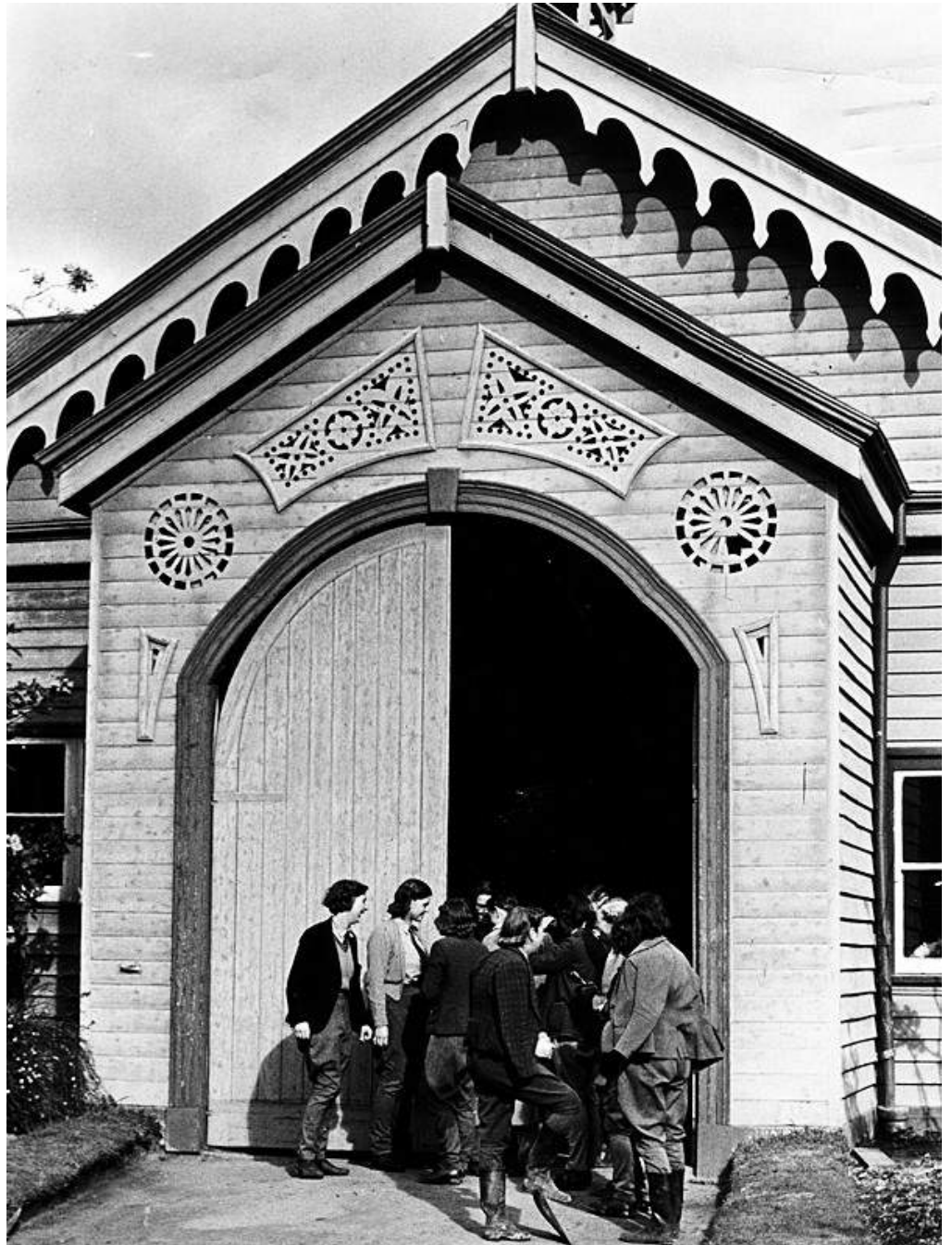
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The Pavilion (nick-named "The Elephant House") - Burnley before the Main Building was built. Thanks to Jane Wilson for this image from the archives.